

# ALASKA FARM REPORTER

Alaska Division of Agriculture  
Alaska Cooperative Extension  
Alaska Ag & Forestry Experiment Station



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## HIGHLIGHTS

**ALASKA MILK PRODUCTION DOWN 4 PERCENT FROM JUNE 2001**

**U.S. CORN PRODUCTION DOWN 7 PERCENT FROM LAST YEAR**

**U.S. ALL WHEAT PRODUCTION UP 1 PERCENT FROM LAST YEAR**

**U.S. BARLEY PRODUCTION DOWN 16 PERCENT FROM A YEAR AGO**

**U.S. OAT PRODUCTION UP 2 PERCENT FROM LAST YEAR**

**U.S. OTHER HAY PRODUCTION UP 9 PERCENT FROM LAST YEAR**

**U.S. PRICES RECEIVED INDEX FOR JULY DOWN 1 POINT FROM JUNE 2001**

**U.S. PRICES PAID INDEX FOR JULY UNCHANGED FROM JULY 2000**

01-8

## MILK PRODUCTION

**ALASKA:** July milk production of 1,290,000 pounds was up 2 percent from revised June 2001 production of 1,260,000 pounds. Production per cow, at 1,180 pounds, was up 40 pounds from the previous month and compares with 1,260 pounds for July a year ago. The number of milk cows, at 1,100 head, were up 200 head from last year.

Accumulated milk production during the first seven months of 2001 was 8,320,000 pounds compared with 7,510,000 pounds produced during the same period in 2000.

**20 SELECTED STATES:** Milk production in the 20 major States during July totaled 12.1 billion pounds, down 1.2 percent from July 2000. June revised production, at 12.1 billion pounds, was down 0.2 percent from June 2000. The June revision represented an increase of 0.3 percent or 34 million pounds from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,555 pounds for July, 6 pounds below July 2000. The number of milk cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.75 million head, 72,000 head less than July 2000, but unchanged from June 2001.

## U.S. CROP PRODUCTION

**CORN** production is forecast at 9.27 billion bushels, down 7 percent from last year and 2 percent from 1999. Based on conditions as of August 1, yields are expected to average 133.9 bushels per acre, down 3.2 bushels from last year. If realized, this would be the lowest production since 1997. Yields are mostly lower than 2000 in the central and eastern Corn Belt as well as the southern Plains. Mostly higher yields were reported in the western Corn Belt and Southeast where the corn crop is rebounding from drought conditions last year. Farmers expect to harvest 69.2 million acres of corn for grain, down 100,000 acres from June and 5 percent from 2000.

**ALL WHEAT** production is placed at 1.98 billion bushels, up 1 percent from the July forecast but down 11 percent from 2000. Based on August 1 conditions, the U.S. yield is forecast at 40.2 bushels per acre, up 0.2 bushels from last month.

**BARLEY** production for 2001 is forecast at 266 million bushels, down 16 percent from 2000, but up 1 percent from last month. If realized, this will be the lowest production since 1953. Based on August 1 conditions, producers expect to average 58.8 bushels per acre, a decrease of 2.3 bushels from last year's near record high, but 0.4 bushel above the July forecast. Area harvested, at 4.51 million acres, is 13 percent below the 5.20 million acres harvested in 2000, but unchanged from the previous estimate.

**OAT** production is forecast at 135 million bushels, 2 percent above the July 1 forecast, but 9 percent below last year's 149 million bushels. If realized, this will be the lowest production on record. The forecasted yield is 62.0 bushels per acre, up 1.5 bushels from July 1, but down 2.2 bushels from 2000. Area for harvest is estimated at 2.19 million acres, down 6 percent from last year, but unchanged for the previous estimate.

**OTHER HAY** production is forecast at 78.1 million tons, 9 percent above last year's production. Yield's are expected to average 1.95 tons per acre, equivalent to last year's yield. Harvested area is estimated at 40.1 million acres, up 9 percent from the 36.8 million acres harvested in 2000. This year's acreage will be the highest since 1958. Timely rains in the Gulf States have improved their yields following last year's drought.

### **U.S. CATTLE INVENTORY**

All cattle and calves in the United States as of July 1, 2001, totaled 105.8 million head, slightly below the 106.3 million on July 1, 2000 and 1 percent below the 107.0 million two years ago. All cows and heifers that have calved, at 43.0 million, were slightly below the 43.2 million on July 1, 2000 and 1 percent below the 43.3 million two years ago. Beef cows, at 33.9 million, were down slightly from July 1, 2000 and 1 percent below two years ago. Milk cows, at 9.15 million, were down 1 percent from July 1, 2000 but was unchanged from two years ago.

### **U.S. SHEEP**

All sheep and lamb inventory in the United States on July 1, 2001, totaled 8.30 million head, 2 percent below July 1, 2000. Breeding sheep inventory declined to 4.90 million head on July 1, 2001, 3 percent below July 1, 2000. Market sheep and lambs (including newborn lambs), at 3.40 million head, were 2 percent below last July.

Of the July 1, 2001 breeding herd, 4.07 million head were ewes one year old and older, 195,000 head were rams one year old and older, and 640,000 head were replacement lambs (including newborn lambs).

### **U.S. AGRICULTURAL PRICES**

The Preliminary All Farm Products Index of **Prices Received** in July was 106 based on 1990-92=100, down 1 point (0.9 percent) from the June Index. Lower prices for cattle, grapes, celery, and peaches were partially offset by higher prices for soybeans, corn, cantaloupes, and broilers. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell often affects the overall index. Higher seasonal marketings of grapes, wheat, tomatoes, and grain sorghum were more than offset by lower marketings of milk, cantaloupes, strawberries, and potatoes.

Compared with July 2000, the All Farm Products Index was 10 points (10 percent) higher. Price increases from July 2000 for milk, broilers, wheat, cattle, and corn were partially offset by lower prices for lettuce, sweet corn, turkeys, and barley.

The July Index of **Prices Paid** for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates (PPITW) was 124 percent of the 1990-92 average. The index was unchanged from June but 4 points (3.3 percent) above July 2000. Lower prices in July for nitrogen fertilizers, diesel fuel, gasoline, and insecticides were offset by higher prices paid for feed concentrates, feed supplements, feed grains, hay and forages, and complete feeds.

**MEAT ANIMALS:** The July index, at 100 was down 3.8 percent from last month but up 4.2 percent from a year ago. The July hog price was \$51.40 per cwt, down \$0.80 from June but up \$3.10 from year ago. The July beef cattle price, at \$70.80, was down \$2.70 from last month but up \$3.30 from July 2000. July 1 cattle on feed numbers were up 6 percent from last year.

**FEED GRAINS AND HAY:** The July index was 95, up 4.4 percent from last month and up 16 percent from July 2000. The corn price, at \$1.88 per bushel, was up 11 cents from June and 24 cents above the July 2000 price. Declining conditions in the Corn Belt drove prices higher. The all hay price, at \$96.30 per ton, was up 50 cents from last month and \$16.10 above July 2000.

## **LOWER 48**

### **EARLY AUGUST HEAT WAVE**

A brief but intense heat wave expanded across much of the Nation in early August, setting several monthly record high temperatures and producing the hottest weather in more than 20 years at a few locations. Only portions of the southern and western United States were spared from extreme heat, in part due to the remnants of Tropical Storm Barry in the Southeast and abundant monsoonal showers in the Southwest. By August 11, however, much of the heat was vanquished by a slow moving cold front, which triggered widespread rainfall across the South and East, including the most significant precipitation in more than 2 months across parts of the southern plains.

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